

Caneda (Presidio) Adobe
121 East Canon Perdido
Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara County
California

HABS No. CAL-242

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42-SANBA

12

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Western Office, Division of Design and Construction
450 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, California

DO NOT COUNT AS DATA

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PHOTOGRAPH-DATA BOOK REPORT
HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

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CANEDA (PRESIDIO) ADOBE

121 East Canon Perdido
Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara County, California

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REPORT

Prepared by David Gebhard, August 1965

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PHOTOGRAPHS

Jack E. Boucher, Photographer, October 1960

SOUTH ELEVATION
LIVING ROOM
DOOR DETAIL

SKETCH OF PLAN by David Gebhard, August 6, 1965

Santa Barbara Presidio is California Historical Landmark No. 307

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Part I: HISTORICAL INFORMATION

- A. Name: Narisco Canada (Presidio) Adobe
- B. Location: 121 East Canon Perdido
Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara County, Calif.
- C. Present owner: Elmer H. Whittaker
- D. Present occupant: Elmer H. Whittaker.
- E. Present use: private residence.
- F. Brief statement of significance: The original Narisco Canada house, which now forms a part of the adobe house of Elmer H. Whittaker was one of the contiguous buildings which formed the north side of the Santa Barbara Presidio. The Canada house and El Cuartel are the two important fragments still remaining of the original Presidio.
- G. Physical History:
1. Original and subsequent owners: According to Cullimore (pp. 10-14) the Canada adobe, along with the other contiguous buildings at the north side of the Santa Barbara Presidio, was built in 1782. Its location was within the Presidio, inside the northwest wall. With the division of land in Santa Barbara which occurred under Mexican rule, the property was granted to Jose Maria Maldonado (a). In Warkenrueder's Map # 2 of the city of Santa Barbara in 1852, the property is designated as belonging to Narisco Canada, the adjacent property to the east as belonging to Jose Maldenada (o). In 1862 the property was officially deeded by the city of Santa Barbara to Luisa Valenzuela, the widow of Canada. In 1872 the property was acquired by J. E. Goux; in 1875 it was purchd by A. A. Oglesby and Pedro Baron. It was acquired in 1923 by Mr. and Mrs. Elmer H. Whittaker. The Canada Adobe is incorporated in the adobe house built by the Whittakers in 1946. They are still the owners of the property.
 2. Date of erection: 1782.
 3. Historic events and personages:
Canada was a soldier at the Presidio; his wife Luisa Valenzuela was the granddaughter of Rosalino Fernandez Hernandez, one of the original 36 "Soldados de Cuevo," who were present at the founding of the Santa Barbara Presidio.
 4. Published and unpublished views.
 - a. The property is shown in Warkenrueder's Map

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2 of the city of Santa Barbara, 1852.

- b. A schematized view of the house can be seen in the ca. 1887 panoramic view of Santa Barbara, printed in Santa Barbara, in the collection of the Santa Barbara Historical Society, Santa Barbara.
- c. Photograph of the southeastern section of Santa Barbara, near Anacapa and East Canon Perdido Streets, taken in the 1880's or 1890's (?), in the collection of the Santa Barbara Historical Society, Santa Barbara.
- d. South and west side of house, photograph taken in 1880 (?); in the collection of the Santa Barbara Historical Society, Santa Barbara.
- e. Reconstruction drawing of house (based upon above photograph) by Cullimore (1948, p. 10).
- f. Photograph of house just before restoration (1946); collection of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer H. Whittaker.
- g. Reproduction of house as it was restored:
Santa Barbara News Press, July 31, 1949
July 30, 1965

5. References:

- a. Cullimore, Clarence, Santa Barbara adobes, Santa Barbara Book Publishing Co., Santa Barbara, 1948, pp. 10-14.
- b. Santa Barbara News Press

July 31, 1949
August 9, 1962
July 30, 1965

David Gebhard
August 6, 1965

Part II: ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

- A. Name: Narisco Canada (Presidio) Adobe
Address: 121 Canon Perdido
Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara County, Calif..
- B. Number of stories: one
- C. Type of wall construction: Adobe (original rear (north) lean-to of wood.
- D. Layout: (see plan) Originally two rooms, lean-to added to rear at later date. Porch-corridor across front.
- E. General statement:
The Canada adobe is simply one and a half rooms of the contiguous building which ran along the north side of the Santa Barbara Presidio. This adobe and the El Cuartel Adobe across East Canon Perdido Street are the only major buildings still standing of the original Presidio.
- F. General Statement: Condition of fabric.
Excellent condition.
- G. Detailed Statement: General.
Apparently when the Canada adobe was sold to Narisco Canada, or perhaps even earlier, the east room, which was about the same size as the west room, was divided in the middle. The west half of the divided room was retained by Jose Maldenada(o). At the time the Whittakers proceeded to remodel and rebuild the adobe (in 1946), there was a wood lean-to to the rear of the house. This lean-to is visible in the 19th century photographs of the house, as is the shed roofed front corridor porch. In the rebuilding the house the roof was removed and a reinforced concrete beam was poured along the top of the adobe walls. A new roof was then built which followed the same pitch as the original roof. The new rooms (a bath and a bedroom) of the remodeled and enlarged house followed the foundation line of the original adjacent Jose Maldenada house. The wood lean-to section to the rear was torn down and was replaced (in almost the same position) by adobe walls and a new roof. The adobe used in the addition to the house was taken from the 19th century Harmer adobe. At the time of remodeling the house was covered with a shingle roof, but fragments of broken roof tile, plus the early description of the Santa Barbara Presidio would argue that the building had first been covered with a tile roof. The enlarged and rebuilt house was covered with old, hand made roof tiles.

- H. Overall dimensions: (see plan)
South front: 35' 6"
West wall: 16' 4"
- I. Foundation: Original section; rough cut stone laid in adobe.
New section: reinforced concrete
- J. Wall Construction: Adobe; lime plaster on exterior and interior. Walls vary in thickness between 1'0" to 1' 10"
- K. Porches: Present porch with 6 square wood posts supporting a shed roof (constinuation of pitch of main roof) the result of the 1946 restoration. In the 19th century photographs the porch appears less wide than it now is.
- L. Chimneys: Present fireplace chimney along the north wall of the living room was added in 1946.
- M. Openings: Doorways and doors.
The present front door leading into the living room is most likely original with the house. The door, although old, is not part of the original house.
- N. Openings: Windows and shutters.
According to Cullimore (1948, p. 14) the three windows (two on the south side and one on the west side) were added in the 1850's. Before the 1946 remodeling the windows were double hung, 6 panes to each sash. These were replaced by narrow casement windows; each window of which is divided by two horizontal mullions. The interior 3 panel shutters are all modern.
- O. Roof: Shape and Covering.
Medium pitched gable roof, with shed roofed porch to front and shed roofed lean-to to rear. Original house covered with tile; then by wood shingles; presently by old hand made tile.
- P. Roof: Cornice and eaves.
Single board used as fascia for extended roof edge over gable end of house. Rafters and roof decking exposed underneath.
- Q. Roof: Dormers and cupolas. None.
- R. Floor plan (see attached plan)
Original house: large west room: 14' 10" x 22' 8"
small east room : 14' 0" x 12' 0"
- S. Stairways: none

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- T. Flooring: At time of restoration there was a wood tongue and groove floor in the old section of the house. This was replaced by 12" x 12" ceramic tile.
- U. Wall and Ceiling finish: Lime plaster on walls, adobe in gable end left exposed and painted. Ceiling rafters, ridge-beam and roof sheathing partially stained.
- V. Interior doorways and doors: All restored in 1946; all of the existing doors are 19th century.
- W. Interior trim: All a result of 1946 remodeling.
- X. Hardware: All a result of 1946 remodeling; although the knobs and locks are all 19th century.
- Y. Lighting: All modern.
- Z. Heating: Flush walled fireplace in living room built in 1946. According to Mr. Whittaker a primitive fireplace was in the northwest corner of the living room.
- AA. Site. General.
As indicated the house was part of the original Santa Barbara Presidio.
- BB. Orientation and General Setting: House presently faces walled garden on the north side of East Canon Perdido, between Anacapa and Santa Barbara Streets. Canon Perdido was cut through the north half of the Santa Barbara Presidio in the 19th century. A new parking lot has been built to the west of the house; a wooden two story 19th century building housing a Buddhist Church is situated to the east.
- CC. Enclosures:
Present wall around property is a result of the 1946 remodeling.
- DD. Outbuildings:
The adobe outbuildings to the rear of the house were built in 1946.
- EE. Walks:
All of the present walks and the driveway were built in 1946.
- FF. Landscaping; gardens.
The present orchard, gardens and most of the planting were accomplished in 1946.

APPROVED:

Charles S. Pope

Charles S. Pope, AIA

Supervising Architect, Historic Structures

Western Office, Design and Construction

National Park Service

David Gebhard

August 6, 1965

DATE: Sept 1, 1965